(b) Govt. have adopted National Telecom Policy, during the year 1994 in terms of which plans have been drawn for provision of a public telephone facility to each village of the country progressively by the year 1997.

Granting approval for imports to Pepsi Foods Limited

901. SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the approval granted to M/s. Pepsi Foods Limited by Government permits the value of its exports to be taken into account for purposes of imports by M/s. Pepsi Company India Holdings and its subsidiaries;

(b) whether M/s. Pepsi Company India Holdings and its subsidiaries have given any undertaking of commitment to Government that they would export three times the value of their imports;

(c) whether any items imported by M/s. Pepsi Company India Holdings and its subsidiaries have been sold to M/s. Pepsi Food Limited; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) As per the approval granted for M/s. Pepsico India Holdings, import of capital equipment, components and raw materials by it will be allowed as per the import policy prevailing from time to time. No condition has been imposed in this approval regarding the ratio of exports to imports. The separate approval granted to M/s. Pepsi Food Limited stipulates that export to import ratio shall all along be maintained at 3 : 1.

(b) In connection with some approvals granted under the Import Policy, Pepsico India Holdings has undertaken to export three times the value of imports covered by such approvals.

(c) The Company has stated that no items have been imported by M/s. Pepsico India Holdings and its subsidiaries and sold to M/s. Pepsi Foods Limited.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

Orissa Maritime Academy

902. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is Orissa Maritime Academy, Paradeep to train the boys from different parts of the country to be the Seamen for different Shipping Companies;

(b) whether Government are also aware that about one hundred candidates after successful completion of training could not get employment even though some of them are sponsored by Shipping Companies because of the threat from NUSI (Bombay) to Shipping Companies; and

(c) if so, what action Government contemplate to protect the interests of these trained boys from a Government sponsored institution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the prescribed procedure, the candidates selected for training in the Rating Training Establishment should be sponsored by the Shipping Companies. Since the candidates selected for training by the Orissa Maritime Academy had not been sponsored by Shipping Companies before their selection, some of them are facing employment problem.

(c) The Government has, time and

again impressed upon the Orissa Maritime Academy to ensure the sponsorship of the candidates before they are selected for training. Besides, the Government of India has set up a Committee under Shri Praveen Singh, former Director General of Shipping, to examine, inter-alia, whether Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC) should be issued to all applicants desirable of becoming seamen, whether they are sponsored by the Shipping Companies or not. The Committee has since submitted its report, which is under examination in the Ministry.

Operations of foreign Trawlers

903. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received representations for a total ban on trawling by the foreign vessels; and

(b) if so, whether Government will cancel the licences issued to the foreign trawlers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has constituted a Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri P. Murari, former Secretary to the Government of India for a review of the Deep Sea Fishing Policy. Further action will be taken after the recommendations of the Committee are received.

New sorting arrangement of letters in Kerala

904. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sorting system has been rearranged and the number of sorting staff has been reduced in Kerala;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) whether these systems would make inordinate delay in delivery of letters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Sorting system are reviewed and rationalised from time to time to bring about efficiency. However, no basic change in sorting system has been carried out nor reduction in sorting staff has taken place in Kerala.

(b) and (c) In view of reply in (a) above, do nor arise.

Setting up of Monitoring station in A.P.

905. SHRI MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up any monitoring station in Andhra Pradesh to examine the large number of road accidents in 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steep increase in road accidents occured in Andhra Pradesh on the National Highways in 1994-95 and in the first part of 1995-96; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The road accidents are normally recorded by the State Police Departments and then road accidents data is compiled on the basis of the information collected from States/U.Ts. on calender year basis by the Road Safety Cell of this Ministry, for the State as a whole. As per information available from Government of Andhra Pradesh, a total number of 6247 accidents occured on National Highways during 1994 in the State and during 1993 the number of accidents occured were 5533.